

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A lancet, comprising:

a body (2);

a neck (6) located at a first end of the body;

a cap (3) connected to the body at the neck and integrally moulded with the body,

the cap being of a cup form with, at a front end, a base (11) having a central aperture (12),

an exterior surface of the cap flaring outwardly from the base into an approximately elliptical cross-section at a break circumference,

the exterior surface extending beyond the break circumference, to a rear end of the cap, as a constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13),

~~a first abutment (7)~~ two axially spaced ribs (7, 8) located on the body and defining a gap therebetween;

two inwardly-directed opposed lugs (14), limited in position to an internal part of the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13), the two inwardly-directed

opposed lugs (14) located on an inner surface of the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13) on the minor axis thereof; and

a needle (4) with a tip (5) projecting into the neck, wherein,

the rear end of the cap connects to a cylindrical forward end of a firing device by squeezing the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13) along the major axis of the approximately elliptical cross-section to deform the approximately elliptical cross-section into a circular cross-section,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and then retracts so that the needle tip is within the cap and the opposed lugs are proximate the gap between the two ribs, and

upon removal of the firing device from the cap, the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13) resumes the approximately elliptical cross-section with the opposed lugs (14) closing towards each other and engaging the gap between the two ribs to capture the ribs and ~~body rearwardly of the first abutment~~ to capture the body within the cap.

9. (currently amended) The lancet of claim 8, wherein,
two opposed longitudinal slots (15) originate at the two opposed lugs and extend to the rim of the base

~~the first abutment comprises two axially spaced circular ribs (7, 8) located on the body and defining a gap therebetween, upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and then retracts so that the needle tip is within the cap and the opposed lugs are proximate the gap between the two ribs.~~

10. (currently amended) The lancet of claim 8, wherein, a first of the two ribs defines a first abutment, and a second of the two ribs defines ~~further comprising~~ a second abutment (8) to the rear of the first abutment (7), the lugs ~~projections~~ (14) being adapted to engage between the first and second abutments (7, 8) when the cap (3) is removed from a firing device.

11. (previously presented) The lancet of claim 8, in combination with a firing device wherein the rear of the lancet body (2) is non-rotatively receivable by a holder in the firing device.

12. (currently amended) A lancet, comprising:
a body (2) with a neck (6) located at a first end;
a cap (3) connected to the body at the neck,
the cap having a front end with a base (11) having a central aperture (12),

an exterior surface of the cap flaring outwardly into an approximately elliptical cross-section at a break circumference, the exterior surface extending beyond the break circumference, to a rear end of the cap, as a constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13), a portion of the exterior surface extending to the rear of the cap being a continuous wall;

a gap located between two axially spaced circular ribs (7, 8) of the body, the ribs extending beyond a cylindrical envelope of remaining portions of the body;

two opposed lugs (14) extending inwardly from an internal part of the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13), the two opposed lugs located on the minor axis of the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion;

two opposed longitudinal slots (15) originating at the two opposed lug and extending to the rim of the base; and

a needle (4) with a tip (5) projecting into the neck, wherein,

the rear end of the cap connects the cap to a cylindrical forward end of a firing device by squeezing the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13) along the major axis of the approximately elliptical cross-section to deform the approximately elliptical cross-section into a circular

cross-section corresponding to the cylindrical forward end of the firing device,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and then retracts so that the needle tip is within the cap and the opposed lugs are proximate the gap between the two ribs, and

upon removal of the firing device from the cap, the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13) resumes the approximately elliptical cross-section with the opposed lugs (14) closing towards each other and engaging the body at the gap between the ribs to capture the body within the cap.

13. (previously presented) The lancet of claim 12, wherein, the body has a cruciform cross section.

14. (currently amended) A lancet, comprising:

a body (2) holding a needle (5);

a cap (3) connected to the body at a neck, the cap concealing a tip of the needle and being breakable away from the body at the neck to expose the tip,

the cap having a front end with a base (11) having a needle aperture (12),

an exterior surface of the cap flaring outwardly from the base into an approximately elliptical cross-section at a break circumference,

the exterior surface extending beyond the break circumference, to a rear end of the cap, as a constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13);

a gap located between two axially spaced circular ribs (7, 8) of the body, the ribs extending beyond a cylindrical envelope of remaining portions of the body;

two opposed lugs (14) extending inwardly from an internal part of the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13); and

two opposed longitudinal slots (15) originating at the two opposed lug and extending toward the rim of the base, and, wherein,

the rear end of the cap connects the cap to a cylindrical forward end of a firing device by squeezing the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13) along the major axis of the approximately elliptical cross-section to deform the approximately elliptical cross-section into a circular cross-section corresponding to the cylindrical forward end of the firing device,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and bounces back so that the needle tip is within the cap and the opposed lugs are proximate the gap between the two ribs, and

upon removal of the firing device from the cap, the constant approximately elliptical cross-section portion (13)

resumes the approximately elliptical cross-section with the opposed lugs (14) closing towards each other and engaging the body at the gap between the ribs to capture the body within the cap, the cap (3), removed from body, configured to have the lugs co-operate with the ribs to lock the cap on the lancet.

15. (previously presented) The lancet of claim 14, wherein, the body has a cruciform cross section.

16. (new) The lancet of claim 8, wherein, the cap (3), removed from body, is configured to have the lugs co-operate with the ribs to lock the cap on the lancet.

17. (new) The lancet of claim 12, wherein, the cap (3), removed from body, is configured to have the lugs co-operate with the ribs to lock the cap on the lancet.

18. (new) The lancet of claim 8, wherein, manual removal of the cap automatically removes the lancet, the co-operation of the lugs and ribs performing a capture, an extraction, and a locking as the cap is pulled off the firing device.

19. (new) The lancet of claim 12, wherein, removal of the cap, by a manual pulling operation, automatically removes the lancet, the co-operation of the lugs and ribs performing a

capture, an extraction, and a locking as the cap is pulled off the firing device.

20. (new) The lancet of claim 14, wherein, removal of the cap automatically removes the lancet, the co-operation of the lugs and ribs performing a capture, an extraction, and a locking as the cap is pulled off the firing device.

21. (new) The lancet of claim 8, wherein, a portion of the exterior surface of the cap extending to the rear of the cap being a continuous wall.

22. (new) The lancet of claim 14, wherein, a portion of the exterior surface of the cap extending to the rear of the cap being a continuous wall.